



United States
Department of
Agriculture

1997 Tree Assistance Program

Purpose

The 1997 Tree Assistance Program (TAP), administered by the Farm Service Agency, provides cost-share payments to orchard and vineyard growers who incurred losses due to damaging weather, including losses caused by freeze, excessive rainfall, floods, drought, tornado, and earthquake in Fiscal Year 1997 (October 1, 1996 through September 30, 1997). Payments are authorized only for eligible owners who actually replant or rehabilitate orchard trees and vineyards.

Application Period

TAP applications for losses suffered in Fiscal Year 1997 must be filed at the grower's county Farm Service Agency office during the sign-up period to be held August 18 through September 12, 1997.

TAP Objectives

TAP is designed to reimburse up to 100 percent of the replanting or rehabilitation costs for orchardists who experienced orchard tree and vineyard losses in FY 1997.

Eligible Plants

Under authority provided by Public Law 105-18, 1997, Tree Assistance Program payments shall be made for Fiscal Year 1997 losses of orchard trees and vineyards planted to produce annual crops that were lost due to natural disasters, including but not limited to flood, drought, hail, excessive moisture, freeze, tornado, hurricane, earthquake, and excessive wind as determined by the Farm Service Agency.

Limitations

Eligible owners may not receive more than \$25,000 per person.

Eligible Owners

To qualify, orchard tree and vineyard owners must:

- own not more than 500 acres of the type of orchard tree or vineyard for which benefits are requested.
- earn less than \$2.5 million gross annual revenue in the tax year preceding the year in which the losses occurred.
- suffer 20% or greater loss, adjusted for normal mortality.
- be in compliance with highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions.

Payments for Individual Stands

Payments will be provided for the replacement or rehabilitation of all qualifying losses to orchard trees or vineyards within the individual payment limitations. Payments will provide an amount not to exceed 100 percent of the cost to replant or rehabilitate the orchard tree or vineyard.

Prior Approval Policy

Payments will be authorized to reimburse the cost of eligible replanting and rehabilitation measures that are implemented either before or after the owner applies for payment.

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To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., 20250, or call 1 800-245-6340 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD).

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